

Forest Integrated Pest Management Program

116-01-Forest Integrated Pest Management Program

Fund/Agency: 116/31		Forest Integrated Pest Management Program
Personnel Services	\$361,683	This CAPS accounts for 100 percent of total expenditures.
Operating Expenses	\$512,417	
Recovered Costs	\$0	
Capital Equipment	\$0	
Total CAPS Cost:	\$874,100	
Federal Revenue	\$0	
State Revenue	\$0	
User Fee Revenue	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$886,551	
Total Revenue:	\$886,551	
Net CAPS Cost:	(\$12,451)	
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this CAPS	8/8	

► CAPS Summary

As part of a Federal-State-County Cooperative Program, the Fairfax County Forest Integrated Pest Management Program locates tree-damaging gypsy moth and fall cankerworm infestations countywide and selects appropriate control activities to minimize tree defoliation, tree mortality, and forest insect nuisance. The program is effective because staff has the technical knowledge to treat the appropriate areas at the correct time. The program is environmentally sound because it spot-treats only endangered areas and uses minimum concentrations of the most environmentally sound insecticides. Gypsy moth and fall cankerworm infestations can be extensive. A government program can treat these large infestations at a cheaper cost than individual homeowners due to economies of scale. All citizens and businesses in Fairfax County benefit from this program since public and private land is monitored and treated when necessary. Citizen organizations and individual citizens are educated to protect their property from low-level infestations.

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The Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is funded by a Countywide tax levy. The amount of the tax rate has varied annually due to the cyclical nature of the gypsy moth and fall cankerworm populations. For example, the rate was at \$0.0010 per \$100 assessed value in FY 1997. From FY 1998 through FY 2000, no tax assessment was necessary. For FY 2001, the Board-approved tax rate was \$0.001 per \$100 assessed value to provide for treatment of the cankerworm as well as the gypsy moth. The FY 2002 tax rate remains at \$0.001 per \$100 assessed value.

The Forest Integrated Pest Management Program began in the early 1980's, as the Gypsy Moth Program, and was formed in response to the arrival of the gypsy moth caterpillar into Virginia. The gypsy moth caterpillar is a forest pest that was accidentally introduced from Europe and attacks most of the species of hardwood trees found in Fairfax County. After repeated defoliations, wide spread tree mortality is possible. Large gypsy moth infestations were not found in the county until the mid 1980's and large amounts of defoliation were not evident until the early 1990's. In 1999, large infestations of the fall cankerworm, appeared in the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts prompting the Board of Supervisors to add fall cankerworm to the list of insects that the program can control. The fall cankerworm is a native insect that feeds on many of the same tree species as the gypsy moth. Though not usually a serious pest, periodic outbreaks require control. As a result of this program, tree mortality, defoliation, and homeowner nuisance have been kept to a minimum.

Funding

Originally the program was funded through the General Fund. In 1993 the Board of Supervisors created the "Special Service District for the Control of Gypsy Moth Infestations." This is a countywide service district and continues to be the funding vehicle for this program. Federal and State agencies contribute to some treatment efforts and are instrumental in providing technical guidance. The tax rate for FY 2002 is \$0.001 per \$100 of assessed value.

Key Accomplishments

- Completed and maintained a Geographic Information System (GIS) layer of the forest cover types in Fairfax County. This layer is used by the Forest Pest Program as a management tool to identify those areas highly susceptible to forest insect pests and to analyze and evaluate the proper means in controlling forest insects. This layer is also used by other agencies within the County to meet their program needs.
- Completed and maintained a GIS layer delineating the community associations located within Fairfax County. This layer is used by the Forest Pest Program to facilitate the communication between the office and community associations in regards to matters concerning all aspects of forest pest control. This layer is also used by other County agencies, including the Board of Supervisors, to help meet their program needs.
- Initiated and implemented legislation that allowed local service districts to control fall cankerworm infestations.
- Accomplished, annually, the program goal of 0 percent tree defoliation in Fairfax County by monitoring the gypsy moth population, educating homeowners, and by successfully implementing a spray program.
- Planned and implemented a program to address the fall cankerworm in Fairfax County. In the spring of 2000, the Forest Integrated Pest Program successfully treated 7,000 acres in the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts. Subsequent surveys for the fall cankerworm indicate that populations are down significantly.

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- Enhanced the gypsy moth treatment program by using a Global Positioning System, a computerized tracking and positioning system to define the treatment areas. This system benefits the citizens of Fairfax County by increasing spray accuracy and reducing the amount of staff needed to treat gypsy moth infested areas, thus reducing overall treatment costs.
- Developed documents to go on the Land and Development Services' (LDS) Web Page, which provides information about the forest pest, spray locations for the current year, and spray materials used for treatment.

Key Initiatives

- Development and implementation of a customer service forest pest outreach program. Such as placing documents on the Land Development Services' (LDS) Web Page, having a booth at the Fairfax County Fair, and meeting with civic associations.
- Provide resources and information to civic organizations, homeowners, the Board of Supervisors, and other agencies when insect related issues come up. Such as the fall cankerworm, mosquitoes, and the West Nile Virus.
- Assist the non-profit group "Geesepeace" in developing and implementing its initial program initiatives.
- Offer GIS assistance and resources to the LDS' Divisions, along with other County agencies, and private organizations.
- Serve on the deer management committee, along with the Park Authority and the County Executive's Office, which is responsible for developing policy and procedures to address Fairfax County's growing deer population.

Anticipated Initiatives

Expand web-based applications to include more comprehensive treatment history pages, more brochures, and to create forms that homeowners can fill-out via the Internet and submit on-line. In addition, this program would like to explore the possibility of including Forest Integrated Pest Program information on County's Intranet page.

Trends

Since the late 1990's, gypsy moth populations have been low. Recent surveys indicate that the Northeastern United States is once again on the verge of a large outbreak. Staff predicts large treatment programs in the coming years for gypsy moth caterpillars as well as the corresponding response from citizens who will demand this service.

Fall cankerworm populations appear to be stable and staff will continue monitoring efforts.

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► Method of Service Provision

Regular merit employees provide the services of this line of business. Private vendors through State or County contracts provide aerial and ground treatment.

Hours of Operations are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

► Performance/Workload Related Data

Title	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate	FY 2002 Estimate
Sprayed acres	0	0	14,000	1,800	7,000	9,000
Staff surveys	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Acres of defoliation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tax rate per \$100 assessed value	\$0.001	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.001	\$0.001